

an elastic member covering said core;

A1 the elastic member provided on said core, including said opposite end portions, such that said elastic member has a same outside diameter throughout an entire length in an axial direction; and

films respectively wrapped around portions of said elastic member corresponding to said opposite end portions of said core.

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#### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-53 are active in the application. Of these, Claims 1-50 have been allowed.

Claims 51 and 52 (erroneously referred to as Claims 50-51 in paragraph 5) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the U.S. patent to Kisu. However, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims clearly define over this reference.

According to the feature of the invention recited in these claims, a charging roller comprises a metallic core including axially opposite end portions *larger in diameter than the other portions*, and an elastic member provided on the core. Films are wrapped around the charging roller *at portions corresponding to the large diameter opposite end portions of the core*.

The charging roller should maintain a fixed spacing from the photosensitive element, in order to avoid abnormal discharge. This is problematic in the prior art of Figures 1-2, however, because of the deformation of the elastic roller sleeve due to the force applied by the springs 152. On the other hand, since the films wrapped around the charging roller in accordance with the feature of the invention recited in Claim 51 are wrapped at portions